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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 001811

SIPDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR APHSCT TOWNSEND

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SUBJECT: ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT TOWNSEND'S DECEMBER 2
MEETING WITH UAE MFA UNDERSECRETARY AL NOAIMI

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counter-Terrorism (APHSCT) Frances Fragos Townsend met with United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Abdalla Rashid Al Noaimi December 2 on the margins of the IISS Gulf Security Dialogue conference in Manama. APHSCT Townsend encouraged the UAE to continue its support of the Iraqi government, including encouraging the participation of the Sunni leadership in the December 15 elections. Al Noaimi recognized that Iraq needs help and recalled that it was the UAE that first recognized the initial Iraqi Governing Council, even in the face of Saudi and Arab League opposition. He said that the strength of Iraq is of strategic importance for the Gulf; Iran will exploit a politically weak Iraq and work to create a closed Gulf to the detriment of the current climate of openness.

12. (C) APHSCT Townsend raised concerns about the flow of cash across regional borders in support of terrorism and extremists, and encouraged a strong uniform standard on cash couriers across the nations of the Gulf. Al Noaimi pointed to the UAE National Committee for Terrorist Financing and the Central Bank taskforce as the responsible institutions enforcing laws on terrorist financing. He said that all financial transfers over \$2,000 are documented, and the transferor is required to show identification. He added that the Emirati government is working on a system of documenting transfers carried out under the hawala system. Al Noaimi expressed satisfaction with communication between the Central Bank taskforce and the U.S. Department of Treasury in investigating cases and taking necessary action. APHSCT Townsend encouraged further cooperation on the most difficult cases and in sharing understanding of evolving systems of money transfer. Al Noaimi welcomed further cooperation to close any existing loopholes.

13. (C) APHSCT Townsend praised the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference meeting to be hosted by Saudi Arabia December 7-8 in Mecca, calling it ambitious and potentially historic. She focused on the importance of support for the Amman Declaration. Al Noaimi said that Kuwaiti representatives were involved in working toward achieving consensus at the Mecca conference, and praised Saudi Arabia for taking a leading role. He stressed that it is important for the Islamic world to revisit what it is doing in the areas of education and human rights.

14. (U) APHSCT Townsend cleared this message.

MONROE